

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AS-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00  
DOTE-00 EB-07 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09  
OES-07 FEA-01 /044 R

DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:ARDORNHEIM:CCH  
APPROVED BY EA/IMS:EDWARD C. INGRAHAM

-----180952Z 128818/23

R 180301Z JUN 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

UNCLAS STATE 142091

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, ETRN, ID

SUBJECT: BURMAH TANKERS

1. JUNE 16 NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE REPORTS DECISION BY ALGONQUIN GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANY (MASSACHUSETTS) AND PUBLIC SERVICE ELECTRIC AND GAS COMPANY (NEW JERSEY) TO TERMINATE THEIR JOINT VENTURE, KNOWN AS EASCOGAS LNG INC, WHICH HAD PLANNED TO IMPORT ALGERIAN LNG. EASCOGAS CONTRACT WITH ALGERIAN GAS COMPANY, SONATRACH, HAD REQUIRED FPC AUTHORIZATION FOR PROJECT BY MAY 31. THE TWO UTILITIES JUDGED THAT PROBLEMS PRESENTED TO FPC BY THEIR APPLICATION WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE RESOLVED TO FPC'S SATISFACTION AND THEREFORE DETERMINED NOT TO SEEK EXTENSION OF DEADLINE. NEW JERSEY UTILITY HAS BOUGHT OUT ALGONQUIN'S SHARE OF EASCOGAS AND MAY TRY TO MAKE A SEPARATE CONTRACT WITH SONATRACH FOR SMALLER VOLUME OF GAS IMPORTS.

2. AT SAME TIME, EASCOGAS' CONTRACT WITH BURMAH OIL  
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TANKERS LTD ALSO CANCELLED. FIRST OF THREE LNG TANKERS BUILT FOR THIS TRADE HAS BEEN DELIVERED -- THE AQUARIUS, TO WHOSE LAUNCHING AMBASSADOR RUSMIN WAS INVITED AND WHICH HAS BEEN PLACED TEMPORARILY IN BADAQ-JAPAN TRADE. NET EFFECT OF EVENTS DESCRIBED ABOVE MAY POSSIBLY BE PERMANENT

ASSIGNMENT OF AQUARIUS AND TWO UNDELIVERED EASCO TANKERS,

NOW A-BUILDING AT GENERAL DYNAMICS' QUINCY YARD, TO THE  
CHEROKEE SERVICE BETWEEN INDONESIAN AND JAPAN. ONE OR MORE  
OF THREE TANKERS MIGHT ALSO BE REASSIGNED TO ALGERIA-  
NEW JERSEY TRADE UNDER A NEW EASCOGAS-SONATRACH CONTRACT).

3. LNG TANKER HILLI, IN ABU DHABI-JAPAN TRADE AND OWNED  
BY INTERNATIONAL UTILITIES, HAS BEEN STEAMING IN INTER-  
NATIONAL WATERS OFF JAPAN FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS TRYING TO  
WORK CERTAIN UNKNOWN METAL OBJECTS OUT OF ITS LNG  
STORAGE TANKS WITHOUT ALLOWING ITS CARGO TO VAPORIZ.  
OBJECTS WERE HEARD RATTLING AROUND WHEN HILLI BEGAN DIS-  
CHARGING ITS CARGO AT A JAPANESE PORT, FORCING SHIP TO  
CEASE DISCHARGING AND HEAD FOR HIGH SEAS. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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